

Injury Prevention Network Region IX Newsletter

Summer 2002 Number 6

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UPDATES: CALIFORNIA

Public Access Defibrillation

The EMS Authority is in the process of finalizing regulations covering the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for use by laypersons. An increasing number of defibrillators are being installed in public places, such as airplanes, airports, malls, and sports arenas. The newest devices are very easy to use, but some medical oversight is needed for training.

Bioterrorism Preparedness

California EMS is receiving nearly \$10 million through HRSA to enhance hospital bioterrorism preparedness and planning. In addition, the County of Los Angeles is receiving \$3.5 million. The purpose of the grant is to develop and implement regional plans to improve the response to bioterrorism. The Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Planning Committee (HBPPC) was established and has convened for four meetings. The mission of the HBPPC is to provide guidance, direction, and oversight to the EMS Authority in planning for California's healthcare system bioterrorism preparedness and response.

EMS for Children Conference

The 5th Annual EMS for Children Conference will be held November 7-8, 2002 in San Diego. For a registration packet, call Belinda Dixson, EMS Authority at 916-322-4336.

UPDATES: HAWAII

EMS for Children Update

Legislative Efforts

EMS personnel were busy during Hawaii's 2002 legislative session, providing testimony on several bills aimed at preventing unnecessary injuries to Hawaii's keiki (children). First up was SB 2321 and HB 1728, regarding amending Hawaii's child passenger safety restraint law to require children between the ages of four and eight and weighing less than 80 pounds to be properly secured in an appropriate child restraint system (booster seat).

While great strides have been made to protect infants and toddlers in motor vehicle crashes, preschoolers and young children under eight years of age remain at high risk of injury. These youngsters are often

placed in standard adult safety belts that can cause internal injuries and death for children in a car crash. Seat belts are designed for older children and adults, and tend to be less effective and in some cases unsafe for children in this age group due to their size and physical development.

A similar bill was successfully passed by the 2001 Legislature but later vetoed by the Governor. EMS personnel, along with the Hawaii State Department of Health's Injury Prevention and Control Program, Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii, Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention Systems Branch, and numerous injury prevention coalitions, continue to feel strongly about this measure and once again threw their support behind it. Who better than EMS personnel, the people who work the scenes of injuries, to have some insight into how they can be prevented? Unfortunately, due to time constraints in getting bills heard, the proposed booster seat bills did not make it out of a key committee for consideration by both legislative houses. Undaunted, efforts will once again be mounted during the 2003 legislative session, with EMS support fully behind them.

Other bills supported by EMS personnel were SB 2776 and HB 2518, which would authorize the Hawaii State Department of Health to expand its duties and functions to include providing assistance in the continued implementation of the current statewide poison information program, the Hawaii Poison Center. The Hawaii Poison Center provides a vital service to Hawaii, responding to more than 12,000 calls annually, 3,600 of which are related to children. Many of these calls are acute in nature and the Hawaii Poison Center's professionally trained nursing staff is able to provide for expedient and early case management of poisoning incidents, thus precluding the need for an EMS visit or response.

During the last week of February, EMS personnel joined forces with Champions for Children, affiliated with the Good Beginnings Alliance, the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii, and local law enforcement in educating legislators on the pending bills relating to booster seats and the Hawaii Poison Center. EMS took the lead for poison prevention, teaming with the director and the lead call nurse of the Hawaii Poison Center, the EMS Injury Prevention Chief, and the EMS Injury Prevention Coordinator. The team visited key legislators at the state's capital to discuss key points about poison prevention and the benefits of a 24-hour poison "hotline," and to garner the legislators' support for SB 2776 and HB 2518. Their efforts paid off, with the bills being passed unamended by both legislative houses. They now await signature by the Governor.

Thanks in part to the involvement by EMS personnel in past legislative sessions, Hawaii now boasts laws requiring children under 16 years of age to wear bicycle helmets and passengers under 18 years of age to wear seat belts when riding in the back seat of a motor vehicle. Hawaii's EMSC project has targeted its injury prevention efforts toward educating the community about these laws.

Ongoing Efforts

Hawaii's EMSC program continues to partner with the Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition/SAFE KIDS Hawaii in addressing unintentional childhood injuries. In an effort to establish EMS providers as the

medical home for injury prevention statewide, training continues on basic injury prevention and child passenger safety.

The Hawaii EMSC program also publishes a quarterly injury prevention newsletter for local EMS professionals and other first responders. The newsletter highlights EMS injury prevention activities and other injury-related information. To download a PDF version of past issues of the "Community Injury Prevention Response," visit www.state.hi.us/doh/resource/ems/index.html.

EMSC Grant Awardees Update

The call went out for the awarding of the next round of EMSC-funded mini-grants. EMS personnel were encouraged to initiate new or expand on existing community injury prevention activities for children. Paramedics and EMTs rallied to the call of duty and all mini-grants for the current fiscal year have been awarded.

Congratulations to Honolulu City and County Metro I and Waimanalo EMS Units, new recipients of the EMSC-funded mini-grants. The Metro I EMS Unit was awarded a grant to develop and implement an Explorers Program for high school students, which will focus on EMS as a profession, injury prevention curriculum, and how to provide care in the event of an injury. The Waimanalo EMS Unit was awarded a grant to create a Keiki Safe 9-1-1 Activity Book that uses interactive games, puzzles, and activities to educate children grades three to five on interacting with EMS and the appropriate use of the 9-1-1 system.

A past awardee of an EMSC mini-grant is EMS Unit 290-KCC, which received funds to conduct safety events to educate and encourage parents and children who ride bicycles and scooters to wear helmets. Their project was titled "Malama Keiki" (take care of our children) and the awardees participated in several bicycle/scooter rodeos, distributed safety helmets, and are now undergoing evaluation of their efforts.

Another awardee is the EMS Division of the Hawaii County Fire Department in Hilo whose project is the purchase and use of child transport seats in all Hawaii County ambulances. Upon further research, it was determined that additional funding was needed and efforts were undertaken to secure these funds through other grants. A Department of Transportation grant that will be used for the purchase of the seats was recently awarded. The original EMSC award will be used for training and served to motivate the Division to seek the additional funds to complete the project.

American Medical Response-Maui, Medic 6 Hana was also awarded a mini-grant for their proposal to work with youth in Hana, Maui in conducting traffic safety courses and establishing a local Students Against Drunk Driving chapter in their community. Efforts are on hold due to the unforeseen dengue fever outbreak in Hana.

Answering the Call: News from Around the Islands

Kauai

American Medical Response-Kauai reports that activities continue in a concerted effort to ensure the safety of Kauai's keiki. Medic 21 continues to average one car seat check daily and there were two car

seat check-ups at the Safeway complex in February. Another was held in March, in conjunction with Wal-Mart's Safe Kids Program, with the Kauai Police Department handling traffic flow. A four-day NHTSA training class was conducted in March, along with a three-day class set in May/June. AMR-Kauai's ambitious goal is to have all five ambulance stations on Kauai as permanent car seat inspection stations. Currently, 16 AMR personnel are certified technicians, with two ambulance units up and running as inspection stations.

In other news out of Kauai, AMR-Kauai is pleased to announce the addition of an Injury Prevention Coordinator.

Hawaii

From the Big Island, the Hawaii County Fire Department's EMS Division reports that a consortium of EMS personnel from all Units have partnered with local high schools in conducting CPR classes with interested students. With nine schools signed on from Waiakea to Konawaena, over 1,400 students participated in the classes through May.

An ongoing project for the EMS Division of the Hawaii County Fire Department in Kailua-Kona is their proposal to create and distribute a video that addresses preventable soccer injuries. EMS personnel are collaborating with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in this effort.

Ocean Safety's Injury Prevention Coordinator reports that the Hawaii chapter of the Think First Foundation has embarked on a yearlong endeavor to educate Hawaii's youth on the prevention of head and spinal cord injuries. The chapter is comprised primarily of neurologists from the Queen's Medical Center, members of the Ocean Safety Division, and the Department of Education. With three presentations and a Saturday seminar during the month of March, Think First was able to introduce the concepts of spinal cord injury prevention to over 1,500 high school students and adults.

Ocean Safety also reports on collaborative efforts with the Hawaii Poison Center. During early March, members from both sectors met at Two-Charlie (2C Waikiki), during which the Hawaii Poison Center learned more about a different type of poisoning - jellyfish invasions. The two organizations hope to join forces in developing future projects focusing on poison prevention activities.

Honolulu

The City and County of Honolulu's EMS Division continues its efforts in getting the word out about the importance of Emergency Medical IDs for keiki and adults. Current activities include participation at local health fairs and visits to health and daycare centers.

Maui

American Medical Response-Maui reports that the first child passenger safety (CPS) technician training class offered through Maui Community College was held in January, with the second held in June. Another class for Maui County Fire Department recruits took place in May. In addition to continued efforts on Maui, upcoming car seat check-ups are also scheduled on Lanai and Molokai. AMR-Maui hopes to collaborate with

Safe Community of Maui, Inc. in training additional EMS personnel as child passenger safety technicians.

EMS Week 2002

This year's theme was "Help Is a Heartbeat Away," referring to the prompt, competent, and efficient care provided by Hawaii's EMS personnel. With the signing of a proclamation by the governor, EMS Week was off to a rousing start. And it was with great pleasure that their peers recognized Hawaii's "top guns" of emergency care during the signing ceremony. The Outstanding MICT of the Year is Ian Santee (also a recent EMSC mini-grant awardee) of Honolulu City and County's Metro One Unit and the Outstanding EMT of the Year is Tito Villanueva of American Medical Response-Kauai. Both awardees, in addition to their work responsibilities, have taken the time to get involved in injury prevention efforts.

NATIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST

Injury prevention leaders and practitioners from around the world gathered last month in Montreal for the 6th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, "Injuries, Suicide and Violence: Building Knowledge, Policies and Practices to Promote a Safer World." Conference activities were organized around six major themes: road safety; occupational safety; sport, leisure, home, institutional, and product safety; suicide prevention; violence prevention; and post-trauma care and rehabilitation. Highlights and reports of some presentations can be found at www.smartrisk.ca/montreal.html.

CDC's Injury Center announced eight new funding opportunities for injury prevention surveillance, research, and programs. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/ncipc/whatsnew/whatnew.htm.

As part of a national mobilization effort to prevent drunk driving-related injuries and fatalities, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has created a July 4th toolkit for community education and enforcement. The mobilization's theme, "You Drink & Drive. You Lose," is incorporated into all outreach materials, and custom toolkits are available for prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and traffic safety partners. All materials can be found online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

The 2002 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Awards for Public Service were presented by NHTSA Administrator Jeffrey W. Runge, MD on June 11 during the annual Lifesavers Conference in Lake Buena Vista, FL. Awards recognized individuals and organizations across the country demonstrating exemplary efforts in the field of traffic safety. One local awardee was Janette Fennell, founder and Executive Director of Kids 'N Cars in San Francisco, California. Kids 'N Cars draws national attention to the problem of child injury, disability, and death resulting from motor vehicles. For the complete press release, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nhtsa/announce/press/index.cfm.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

CDC 10th Anniversary Meeting: Networking to Prevent Injuries

Date: June 19, 2002
Location: Radisson Hotel, Boston, MA
For more information, contact:
Laura Gilmore
Phone: 617-624-5428
Email: laura.gilmore@state.ma.us
Web: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/anniversary/boston.htm

CDC 10th Anniversary Meeting: Models of Safety
Date: June 20, 2002
Location: Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, MD For more information, contact: Wendy Shields
Phone: 410-955-2047
Email: wshields@jhsph.edu
Web: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/anniversary/baltimore.htm

World Congress on Drowning
Date: June 26-28, 2002
Location: RAI International Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
For more information, contact: Congress Secretariat World Congress on Drowning, 2002 Consumer Safety Institute PO Box 75 169 1070 Amsterdam, The Netherlands
E-mail: secretariat@drowning.nl
Web: www.drowning.nl

7th Annual National Prevention Symposium - Empowering Youth to Thrive in Uncertain Times
Date: July 31-August 2, 2002
Location: Madison Renaissance Hotel, Seattle, WA
For more information, contact:
Deborah Pitcock Crawley
Phone: 800-323-2433
Email: dpc@chef.org
Web: www.chef.org/NPI.htm

16th Annual California Conference on Childhood Injury Prevention
Date: September 23-25, 2002
Location: Radisson Hotel, Sacramento, CA
For more information, contact:
San Diego State University, Graduate School of Public Health 6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 208 San Diego, CA 92120
E-mail: kmjones@projects.sdsu.edu
Web: www.cccip.org/conf02.htm

3rd Annual Childhood Injury Prevention Conference - Teens on the Road: Strategies for Injury Prevention
Date: September 26-27, 2002
Location: The Adams Mark San Antonio Riverwalk, San Antonio, Texas For more information, contact: South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio 7703 Floyd Curl Drive - MC 7791 San Antonio, TX 78229-3900
Phone: 210-567-7826
E-mail: pricema@uthscsa.edu
Web: www.injuryconference.org

16th International ICADTS (International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety) Conference

Date: August 4-9 2002
Location: Montréal, Canada
For more information, contact:
Elizabeth Wells-Parker, ICADTS Secretary
Mississippi State University
Phone: 601-325-7959
Fax: 601-325-7966
Email: bwparkerss@ssrc.msstate.edu
Web: <http://www.saaq.gouv.qc.ca/t2002>